

Message Text

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11

ACTION NEA-16

INFO OCT-01 EUR-25 IO-14 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07 H-03

INR-11 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-07 PA-04 RSC-01 PRS-01 SP-03

SS-20 USIA-15 STR-08 AID-20 COME-00 EB-11 FRB-03

TRSE-00 XMB-07 OPIC-12 CIEP-03 LAB-06 SIL-01 OMB-01

SAM-01 DRC-01 /205 W

----- 023502

R 260905Z SEP 74

FM AMEMBASSY BEIRUT

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 477

INFO AMEMBASSY ABU DHABI

USINT ALGIERS

AMEMBASSY AMMAN

AMEMBASSY CAIRO

AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS

AMCONSUL JERUSALEM

AMEMBASSY JIDDA

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY MANAMA

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY RABAT

AMEMBASSY SANAA

AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV

AMEMBASSY TUNIS

AMEMBASSY TRIPOLI

USMISSION USUN NEW YORK

USINT BAGHDAD BY POUCH

AMCONSUL DHAHRAN

AMEMBASSY KUWAIT

C O N F I D E N T I A L BEIRUT 11660

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: EGEN, IS, LE

SUBJ: ARAB BOYCOTT OF ISRAEL: FURTHER TO 36TH SESSION OF

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BOYCOTT OFFICE LIAISON OFFICERS

REF: BEIRUT 9344; BEIRUT 9576

1. EMBASSY HAS BEEN FINALLY SUCCESSFUL IN OBTAINING SOME HARD INFO ON RECENT ARAB BOYCOTT MEETINGS IN BEIRUT FROM RELIABLE AND KNOWLEDGEABLE SOURCES.

2. TO BEGIN WITH, REPORTS OF A GENERAL DESIRE TO RELAX BOYCOTT REGULATIONS APPARENTLY ARE NOT RPT NOT ACCURATE. UNDER PRESSURE FROM HARD LINING IRAQI REPRESENTATIVES, LESS HARD-LINED MEMBERS WERE MORE CONCERNED WITH ATTEMPTING TO ADHERE TO EXISTING BOYCOTT REGULATIONS RATHER THAN SOFTENING THEM.

3. MOST IMPORTANT ISSUE SEEMS TO HAVE BEEN IRAQI DRIVE TO BOYCOTT SHIPPING LINES SERVING ISRAEL, RATHER THAN ADHERING TO PRESENT REGULATION WHICH BANS INDIVIDUAL VESSELS ONLY. THIS ISSUE AGAIN IN STRONGLY DEBATED IN SUBSEQUENT ARAB LEAGUE MEETING IN CAIRO, WITH DECISION REACHED THAT MATTERS SHOULD BE FURTHER STUDIED AND RECONSIDERED IN DECEMBER.

4. SOURCE ADMITTED THAT EGYPT DOING ITS BEST TO DRAG ITS FEET ON BOYCOTT IMPLEMENTATION BUT BELIEVES IT CANNOT TAKE INITIATIVE IN PROPOSING RELAXING MEASURES. AS FOR LEBANON, POLICY IS TO INSIST ON ADHERING TO PRESENT REGULATIONS IN ORDER TO PREVENT MOVES FOR SEVERER ACTION.

5. SOURCE NOTED THAT LEBANON BOYCOTT REPRESENTATIVE (ATTACHED TO MINISTRY OF NATIONAL ECONOMY) IS PLAYING HIS OWN GAME AIMED AT BEING AS TOUGH AS POSSIBLE AND THAT HE HAS FREQUENTLY HAD RECOURSE TO LEAKING FALSE AND MISLEADING INFO TO THE PRESS. FORTUNATELY FOR LEBANON ALL BOYCOTT RECOMMENDATIONS, BEFORE GOING TO LEBANESE CABINET, MUST BE CHANNLED THROUGH A COMMISSION REPRESENTING VARIOUS LEBANESE MINISTRIES. COMMISSION WAS SET UP IN THE 50'S AND HAS BEEN SUCCESSFUL IN BRINGING ABOUT MORE BALANCED DECISIONS AS WELL AS IN DELAYING OTHER DECISIONS. (RECENT CONFIDENTIAL

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MEASURES REPORTED IN BEIRUT'S A-190 OF SEPTEMBER 18 REFLECT RECOMMENDATIONS MADE BY ARAB LEAGUE WELL OVER A YEAR AGO.)

6. SOURCE ALSO NOTED THAT ORIGINAL DRAFT OF LEBANESE LAW IMPLEMENTING BOYCOTT CONTAINED PHRASE THAT LEBANON WOULD AUTOMATICALLY IMPLEMENT ARAB REGULAR DECISIONS ON BOYCOTT MATTERS. THIS PART OF THE DRAFT LAW WAS

GQUIETLY ELIMINATED AND CHANGE NOT DISCOVERED UNTIL TWO
YEARS LATER, WHEN QUITE A FUROR WAS CAUSED. OBJECTION
COUNTERED, HOWEVER, BY ARGUMENT THAT ORIGINAL DRAFT
WOULD HAVE VIOLATED LEBANESE SOVEREIGNTY.
GODLEY

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